

New Program Proposal
Associate in Industrial Technology, Major in Industrial Maintenance Technology
York Technical College

Summary

York Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate in Industrial Technology degree with a major in Industrial Maintenance Technology at the institution's campus, to be implemented in Fall 2004.

The Board of the State Technical College System approved the proposal on November 18, 2003. The proposal was submitted for Commission review on February 13, 2003. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on March 31, 2004.

This program proposal grows out of an existing program at the York Technical College campus, known as the "General Technology degree." The General Technology degree exists on other Technical College campuses, too. Its existence permits students to develop enough general education courses with a technology concentration to craft an associate degree when no other cognate degree is available. The purpose of this York Technical College proposed program is to tighten and structure certain industrial maintenance tracks either for students interested in the field or for those already working in the field who wish to advance their careers. The development of the AIT degree with a major in Industrial Maintenance Technology will not be reason for the institution to close the General Technology degree program, but will eliminate students interested in Industrial Maintenance Technology from taking the General Technology degree as their program.

The need for the proposed program is based on demand by employers and on the increased level of education and training required for entering or career progression in the field. Based on a needs analysis survey conducted by the institution in 2001 and follow-up discussions with local employers in the service area, the institution estimates that there are an estimated 66 full-time (new and replacement) positions in the Industrial Maintenance Technology field in the service area for 2003, and that this number will range between 62-68 in each of the following four years of the program's implementation.

The curriculum consists of a minimum of 68 credit hours. Of these, 15 credits are in general education, 15 are in the core, 14-16 are in a single one of the five industrial concentration areas from which a student must select these courses, and 24 are in other industrial coursework. The curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of local industry in the service area. The proposed curriculum is similar in content to that offered by Greenville Technical College, the only other institution with an approved to offer a program in this field. Greenville Technical College has a different geographical clientele from the proposed program at York Technical College. Thus, although these programs represent duplications of the same basic curriculum, the programs themselves are not “unnecessarily” duplicative because of the geographically dispersed clientele which they serve.

No new courses will be required for the proposed program at the institution, since all courses in the proposed new program are ones available in the current General Technology degree program. However, two courses currently taught in the General Technology degree will be eliminated and substituted by two others that are in the State Technical College System’s Catalog of Approved Courses but not currently taught at York Technical College.

The proposal states that no agreement with four-year institutions is being proposed for transfer of students in this program to a four-year institution for two reasons: 1) no four-year program in the state exists in industrial maintenance; and 2) the instructors currently working in the General Technology degree program in areas covered by this proposed program would need to be replaced since they do not meet the criteria of the Southern Association for faculty teaching in baccalaureate-transfer degree programs in community and technical colleges. The proposal from York Technical College states that no new full-time faculty members will be necessary for the program. The program will have four full-time faculty members, all of whom currently are instructors in the General Technology program.

The proposal notes that there is no national accrediting body for IMT programs. No state or national licensure is required at this time for Industrial Maintenance Technicians.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 50 headcount (51.3 FTE) in FY 2004-05 and increase to 74 headcount (72.9 FTE) in FY 2009-2010. Estimates of enrollment are based on the number of students anticipated as a result of local demand and student interest. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards for enrollment.

In the view of the Commission, all new programs constitute a basis for new costs. The proposal for this new program, however, states that this program involves no new costs associated with its implementation except \$5000 in the first year of the program to develop the two new courses to be added into the College's curriculum. The proposal also states that there will be \$21,000 of new funds made available to increase library holdings, but notes these should not be considered "additional" since they are needed for the existing General Technology degree. Physical plant requirements for the proposed program are stated in the proposal as adequate. Faculty salaries are said to be "existing" as part of the General Technology degree program. Equipment needs are stated in the proposal as adequate, since they are also covered under the current General Technology program.

The institution provided a revision on April 7, 2004, of the proposal's section on library resources. The revision states that while the number of volumes and total collection in the library's print materials do not meet the American Council of Research Libraries (ACRL) standards, this is in part because of an aggressive "weeding" policy of the library staff over the past five years. In addition, the revised narrative notes that since 1999, 520 print titles have been added to the technology collection. Of that total, in just the academic year of 2001-2002, a total of 110 engineering/technology books were purchased. Furthermore, the library provides access to a growing number of electronic databases, Internet resources, e-Books, videocassettes, audiocassettes, periodicals, newspapers, CD-ROMS, microfilm, microfiche, and other materials. In the past three years for industrial and engineering technology collections of all media a total of \$61,075 was spent. In the next three years, a total of \$21,000 is planned for expenditure to support the new program proposal's curriculum in library development.

Shown below are the Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first three years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
2004-05	\$595,159	\$0	\$595,159	\$0	\$142,649	\$142,649
2005-06	774,479	0	774,479	165,765	185,455	351,220
2006-07	845,589	0	845,589	215,393	202,151	417,544

These data demonstrate that, if the program proposal is considered to be a new one, even if York Technical College were to meet the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program would not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the third year of its implementation. This remains the case, even if the institution's estimated enrollment figures supplied for the fourth and fifth years are used to calculate MRR costs, state appropriations, and tuition for those years. Nevertheless, the institution affirms that it has the resources to operate the program effectively.

In summary, York Technical College will offer a program leading to the Associate in Industrial Technology degree in Industrial Maintenance Technology to prepare students in the college's service area in a variety of industrial maintenance settings. As measured by employer demand and student interest, the program is needed in the area. Only one other institution in South Carolina (i.e., Greenville Technical College) will have the same program, and that program is approximately 150 miles away. The institution has indicated its ability and willingness to fund the program appropriately.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve York Technical College's proposed program leading to the Associate in Industrial Technology with a major in Industrial Maintenance Technology for implementation in Fall 2004, provided that no "unique cost" or other special State funding be required or requested.